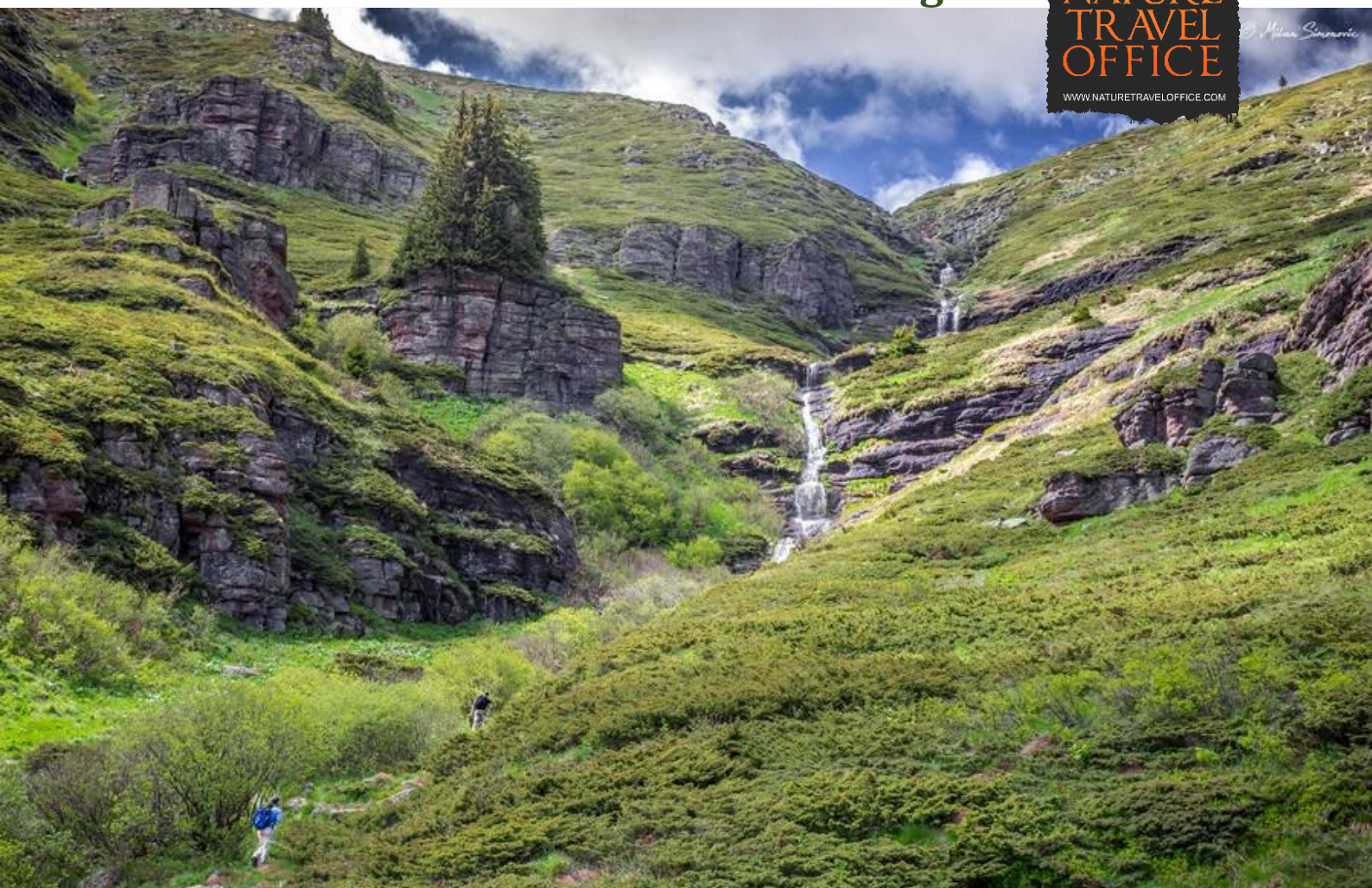


Balkan Mountains – Adventure Challenge



(Belgrade) Niš – Dojkinci – Ponor – Stražna čuka – Široke luke – Dabidžin potok – Kopren – Tupavica – Rosomačko grlo – Jelovičko vrelo – Zavoj Lake – Gostuša – Rsovci – Vladikine Ploče Cave – Niš (Belgrade)

Meet the untouched nature, experience Stara Planina Mountain, its extraordinary beauty, power and charms hidden in intertwined natural and anthropogenic motifs. There is no monotony here, but only the strength and wildness of the mountain and a unique feeling that a stay in this undiscovered area gives you.

The Balkan mountain range (Balkan) lies partially in Serbia, and mostly in Bulgaria. It is about 600 km long, and from 30 to 50 km wide. It stretches from Vrška Čuka in the north to the Black Sea in the east, and it's the extension of the southern Carpathians.

Harmoniously blended intact nature, interesting history, and rich tradition have made the mountain a perfect place for vacation. Especially attractive and significant natural sights on Balkan include the Bigar stream valley, Midžor (the highest peak), the impressive rocks of Babin Zub, the Temštica River meanders, to name a few.

Balkan is a protected area, and it is classified as a national park. Village landscapes resemble dreamlike images, such as the ones of a long forgotten paradise!

General information



Type of adventure: multi-active

Departure: During the season

Group: 20 people max.

Duration: 4 days

Travel mode: minibus/car

Technical requirements:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Physical fitness:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

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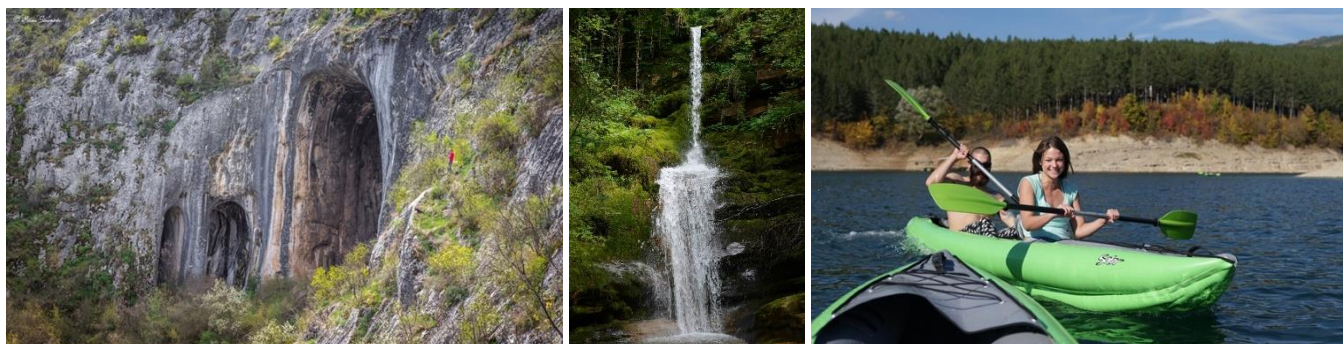


ITINERARY:

DAY I – Departure in front of the hotel in Niš at 07:00 a.m. Driving on the highway to Pirot and further into the heart of the mountain. Through the majestic villages of the mountain, we arrive in an authentic Balkan Mountain village, Dojkinci. From the mountaineers' hut in the village, we follow the track along Duboki Do by which we arrive at Ponor. Ponor is perhaps one of the most magical places of the entire "Stara planina" National Park, a karst depression without surface water flow. Lunch break. We continue hiking to the Stražna Čuka peak with a magnificently beautiful view of Kopren Plateau and Široke Luke. We return to Dojkinci by the circular route through Klisura and Sinošćir. Meet with the group which come from the other part of Serbia in Vrelo village in the evening. Accommodation in the guest house "Vrelo". Dinner. Overnight stay.

DAY II – Breakfast. **OPTION 1:** Transfer to Široka Luka, where we start our magical track. Along the valley of the Jelovica River and up the Dabidža's creek, we first arrive at the smaller, and soon after at the bigger Kopren waterfall, officially the highest waterfall in Serbia. We climb up the waterfall to the very mouth of Dabidža's creek, one of the most imaginary places on the whole Balkan Mountain. We arrive at Kopren, a peak of 1960 meters high. After some time spent at the top, we return to Široke Luke over the ridge with a wonderful view towards Bulgaria, and over Kata Kamen following the forest trail. The tour, 22 km long in total, requires a high level of physical fitness and excellent agility. **OPTION 2:** During an easy hiking route, 8 km long in total, we visit Tupavica waterfall, one of the most beautiful waterfalls in this part of the Balkan Mountains. We return by the same trail to Dojkinci. We continue our trip to Vrelo village where we visit spring of Jelovica, Lunch break. Transfer to Slavinja village, where is located Slavinjsko grlo (canyon), a unique natural rarity, where water cascades from one "pot" to another. We continue our trip to Rsovci village. We visit a medieval church dedicated to the Saints Peter and Paul, with frescoes dating back to 12th century. The church is distinguished by its location in the rock, and by the famous fresco of Christ the Youth. The fresco is unique in Serbian fresco-painting since it represents Christ as a partially bald youth. This 2,5 km long route is not difficult, and it requires basic level of physical fitness. Return to our accommodation. Dinner. Overnight stay.

DAY III – After breakfast, transfer to Rsovci, an enchanting village nestled on the left bank of the Visočica river. We set out on a hiking track to the middle part of the canyon built by the very Visočica River. At first, we follow a dirt road that runs down stream to the point where the mountain track begins. We follow the track which, after a while, ends. Without a mountain track, the tour turns into a real adventure. We arrive at the point where we steeply go down the rock towards the bottom part of the canyon to the very entrance of the Vladikine Ploče cave. The cave's entrance is 28 high, and 11 meters wide. The total length of the explored canals is 2400 m, while the length of the canals we are going to pass through is 660 meters ("the Old canal"). After touring the cave, we return by the same route to the starting point of the adventure. Return to our accommodation. Dinner. Overnight stay.



Balkan Mountains – Adventure Challenge

DAY IV (03.05.) – Breakfast. **OPTION 1:** Transfer to Zavoj Lake and our starting point in Pakleštica village. We prepare the equipment. We set out on the kayak adventure on Zavoj Lake, through wonderful meanders 6 km long. We arrive in bay of Gostuša and set out on a hiking tour that last about 30 minutes. We visit the stone village that represents a unique ambience whole, a natural and historic-cultural monument. Degustation of traditional homemade products in our host's house with lunch break. **OPTION 2:** Traveling through the majestic villages of Balkan, we arrive at the village of Topli Do. We start our hiking tour to Down Pilj Waterfall and along Lisevski Do we reach Upper Pilj Waterfall. Lunch break in nature. We return by the circular route to Topli Do. The route, 9 km long in total, requires high fitness level. On return, we visit Bukovački Do Waterfall. After all facultative sightseeing, we return to Niš (Belgrade). End of program.

Price per person: On request

Price includes:

- Transportation by high class minibus,
- Accommodation for three nights at the guest house "Vrelo" (1/2, 1/3 and 1/4 rooms),
- All planned hiking tours,
- Mountain guide services,
- Tourist guide services,
- Trip organization costs.

Price does not include:

- Food,
- Kayaking adventure – ____ EUR per person,
- Personal expenses.



ACCOMMODATION: Guest house "Vrelo" is located 1.5 km in front of the village of Jelovica in a beautiful environment dominated by the Dojkinačka and Jelovica rivers. The Visočica River canyon with all the other elements that make up the ambient whole stands out in particular. Vrelo village is located at an altitude of 730 m. A special feature of Vrelo is that due to air currents, there is never any fog here, so it is a kind of air spa.

DO NOT FORGET TO BRING: Sneakers, a few pairs of socks, T-shirts, a hooded waterproof parka, sweatshirt, back up clothes and shoes, sunglasses, a cap, suntan cream, swimming suit, a towel. It is also recommended to take candy bars, nibbles, refreshing beverages and water. Put everything into a small backpack.

PAYMENT TERMS: A 50% advance payment of the total arrangement price is required at the time of booking. The remaining amount must be paid no later than 7 days before the start of the trip (with the option of installment payments). This program is based on a minimum of 8 registered participants. In case of changes in the monetary market (or the market of goods and services) or an insufficient number of registered participants, the tour organizer reserves the right to adjust prices, modify the program, or cancel the trip no later than 5 days before the scheduled departure.

The trip organizer is Nature Travel Office tourist agency, license OTP 38/2025, issued by the Business Registers Agency, 06.05.2025. Nature Travel Office is insured by the insurance policy from tourist agency responsibility for any case of insolvency and responsibility in case of damage suffered by a passenger, no. 30000049351, by the insurance company "MILENIJUM OSIGURANJE" A.D.O Beograd. The insurance policy is valid from 01.04.2025. to 01.04.2026. With this programme Nature Travel Office's General Terms and Conditions are effective, and they are an integral part of this trip application.